

## Long-Range Planning Committee Invites You to a Parlor Session

by Arthur Slepian  
and Claudia Bernard, Co-Chairs

The Long-Range Planning Committee has been working for many months to set out the main themes of a plan that can guide the congregation into the future.

As you might imagine, this is a daunting task and one that requires an ongoing dialogue between the committee and the members, leaders and staff of CSZ. We received a great deal of input from congregants at the Congregational Advance last June and at the Leadership Advance last August. We have now reached the stage in our work where we want to renew that dialogue. We will be doing a variety of things to make that happen.

In particular, we want to invite the congregation to participate in a "parlor session" with members of our committee. At these parlor sessions, we will provide an overview of where our work and discussions have taken us so far, and we will seek your feedback and input about ideas and issues we should focus on as we work to complete the plan.

To facilitate increased participation in this dialogue, we will hold the parlor session twice. The dates and times are as follows:

- Sunday, February 2, 1–4 pm
- Wednesday, February 5, 7–9 pm

Both sessions will be held at CSZ, and beverages and light snacks will be provided. We hope that as many members as possible will try to attend one session or the other. This is an opportunity to discuss the future of our congregation, and to help guide our committee as we move forward to com-

—continued on page 2



## A Mystical Seder for the "Hidden Holiday" of Tu Bishvat Saturday, January 18, 7 pm

It was Hillel who set aside Tu Bishvat – the fifteenth day of the month of Shevat – as a New Year for trees. In typical Jewish tradition, the day has developed different layers of (slightly confusing) meaning. Tu Bishvat is a children's holiday, celebrated by visiting the woods, planting and celebrating trees and eating fruits of trees that grow in Israel. But Tu Bishvat is also a mystical celebration of the Tree of Life, the unseen stream of divine light that constantly nourishes our world.

It is the mystical side of Tu Bishvat that CSZ will celebrate this year, at a Kabalistic Tu Bishvat seder on Saturday, January 18, 7 pm. The evening promises to be a rich one. Aside from the traditional four glasses of wine or juice, and fruits of the four worlds, we'll be taking a joyful and surprisingly thorough look at the basics of several important Kabalistic teachings. The texts and discussions will be balanced with stories, songs, a few traditional Jewish contemplations and a little cake.

The seder will be led by Garry Koenigsberg, former CSZ ritual chair and now freelance Jewish teacher and mystic, who says that the tradition of a mystical seder on Tu Bishvat dates back at least to the Ari Zal and other sages of Sefad in the middle ages. Why is there such an emphasis on what we always thought was a minor holiday? "From a mystical point of view, summer and winter are very different times spiritually," Garry replied. "All the Jewish holidays that date back to Moses happen —continued on page 2

## Executive Director Search Reopened

The Personnel Committee has reopened the search for the Executive Director (ED) position; please pass the word on to any and all qualified applicants.

The key responsibilities of the ED position include financial and facilities management, staff supervision, planning, development, membership recruitment and coordination of programs and activities. The minimum requirements include a BA in nonprofit administration or related field; advanced degrees are preferred.

Our ideal candidate will have:

- Five years senior management experience in a nonprofit environment
- Sufficient Jewish knowledge to direct synagogue activities
- Strong leadership ability
- Experience working with the LGBT community
- Proven fundraising skills.

For a complete job description, please visit <http://www.shaarzahav.org/edsearch/>

The deadline for applications is January 15th. Please send a resume and cover letter to [edsearch@shaarzahav.org](mailto:edsearch@shaarzahav.org).



## Volunteer at the UAHC Regional Biennial

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is one of the host congregations for the UAHC Regional Biennial, February 7-9 at the Santa Clara Marriott. The biennial is a three-day event featuring speakers and workshops on all facets of synagogue life from the Reform Movement's perspective presented by both lay leaders and professionals. It is a fantastic experience for anyone interested in the inside scoop on synagogue life, anyone in leadership or considering leadership, or anyone just plain curious about how the other congregations do things. It is also a

great time to connect with members from other congregations in our region. If you can't make all three days, or, if the cost of registration is a strain, you can volunteer to be a greeter, staff the hospitality room or perform other much needed tasks for a couple of hours and spend the rest of the day sampling what the biennial has to offer. Interested? Don't delay, your next opportunity is two years away.

For more information contact Diana Buchbinder (415/337-6319 or [threebuchs@sprynet.com](mailto:threebuchs@sprynet.com)).

**TU BISHVAT** — continued from page 1  
around the summer. The first, Pesach, is in spring, and Sukkot, the last, begins autumn. The winter holidays are later historically and much less obvious — Chanukkah, with no real ritual except the persistent lighting of just one more candle in the darkest time of the year, and Purim, the holiday of complete gaiety. But the Talmud tells us that in the Messianic era, all the holidays will be eliminated — there will be no more Yom Kippur — but there will still be Purim. These winter holidays have much more to them than what meets the eye.

"This is especially true of Tu Bishvat," he continued. "There's a point sometime in the middle of winter when things change. You can't see it on the outside, but inside the bark and under the ground there's a 180 degree change. Everything that's been dying back and pulling in for self protection since fall becomes ready to grow back and bud again. This isn't spring, this is still deep winter. Long before those first buds can appear, there has to be a moment when the plant decides to grow back again, and begins — while it's still completely winter — all the hidden growth that leads up to the buds of spring. This point, when plants — or we ourselves — make a commitment to grow back is really the center, the turning point. That's Tu Bishvat."

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Melanie Kushnir (ext. 305 or [mkushnir@shaarzahav.org](mailto:mkushnir@shaarzahav.org)). Please RSVP no later than Monday, January 13. Cost for members: \$18, nonmembers: \$25.

**PARLOR** — continued from page 1

plete this important work. Please hold one of the above dates open. Additional information will be sent out via e-mail or regular mail as we get closer to the dates.



## Prayerbook Hebrew II Liat Barnea

Tuesdays, January 21 – April 8,  
6:30 – 8 pm

There is little that matches the power and beauty of Jews gathered together in prayer. When we recite the Shema, the Aleinu and the Kaddish, we merge with Jews throughout time, who have recited the same words. This spring, join fellow CSZers for Prayerbook Hebrew II. We will be moving beyond the basics of reading, and learning more about writing and speaking Hebrew. This 12-session class will be taught by Liat Barnea, who has taught Hebrew at UC Berkeley and at other synagogues in the Bay Area. This is a great chance to become a siddur expert by Pesach! To register or for more information, please contact Melanie Kushnir (ext.305 or [mkushnir@shaarzahav.org](mailto:mkushnir@shaarzahav.org)). Members: \$75 + cost of textbook. Nonmembers: \$125 + cost of textbook.

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*Y'odu et Hashem B'Simcha:  
Come Let Us Serve God with Joy  
Creating a Spiritual Space –  
Service Leading with Confidence*

Rabbi Camille Shira Angel, Nathan Robinson and Leslie Kane  
Tuesdays, February 11 and 18, 7 – 9 pm

**A** *Shaliach Tzibbur* means a messenger from the community. Both to pray and to lead prayer require a commitment to practice. We are inherently natural service leaders. For those of you who could never imagine leading a service, this class is especially for you! This class is to help you discover that talent in a spiritual, accessible and enjoyable way, whether you are a seasoned leader or have not yet led. Part of Sha'ar Zahav's unique mission is inclusivity, and everyone is welcome both in

our sanctuary and on our bimah. When you lead a service you discover many things about your spirit and yourself as a person and a Jew. Service leading is as much a gift to you as to the congregation. We are a nation of priests. Come let us be a congregation of service leaders. Please RSVP for this class no later than February 5, so that we can tailor this course to meet your needs. For information or to register, please contact Melanie Kushnir (ext. 305 or [mkushnir@shaarzahav.org](mailto:mkushnir@shaarzahav.org).)

*Sexuality in Israeli Culture  
and Film – In A Day*

Taught by Avner Even – Zohar  
Sunday, February 16, 12:30 – 5:30 pm

**I**n this course we will explore sexuality (or maybe the lack of sexuality) in Israeli culture in the first 25 years of statehood. We will discuss the roots of Zionism and its image as a national movement from a personal and physical point of view. Christian-rooted European anti-Semitism and the Holocaust pushed the founding fathers (and why not mothers?) of Israel to create a new national image of the Sabra – the native born Israeli. The Sabra became ironically a Jewish-boy or rather a Jewish Goy (non-Jew). During the course we will watch and analyze clips from Israel, for example: *Hill 24 Does Not Answer* (1955) and *Hide and Seek* (1980). The film images are very powerful and easy to follow. Students will be encouraged to ask ques-

tions and to compare the Israeli experience of a mobilized society in a state of ongoing war to their own experience growing up in the US during the Cold War era. Please bring lunch. To register, please contact Lehrhaus Judaica (510/845-6420).

Co-sponsored by Cong. Sha'ar Zahav and by Lehrhaus Judaica, the Adult School for Jewish Studies.

Tuition: \$40; \$30/CSZ members; \$25/Learning for Life (age 65+)



Avner Even-Zohar is a native-born Israeli. He now serves as Director of Campus Division for the Israel Center of the Jewish Community Federation in San Francisco.

**The Women of Exodus  
Taught by Rebecca  
Schwartz**

Wednesdays,  
February 12 – March 5, 7 – 8:30 pm

**I**n class we will read relevant portions of Exodus to gain an overall understanding of the biblical characters in question, particularly looking at the role of women in the Passover story. The course includes text study about Miriam, the midwives, Yocheved, and Pharaoh's daughter, with a special emphasis on overt vs. covert use of power by women. Class participants will be encouraged to write a short essay or midrash exploring one or more biblical women, drawing from the themes explored in class. A supplemental reading list will be offered. To register, please contact Lehrhaus Judaica (510/845-6420). Co-sponsored by Cong. Sha'ar Zahav and Lehrhaus Judaica, the Adult School for Jewish Studies. Tuition: members: \$35, nonmembers: \$45

Rebecca Schwartz is the editor of *All the Women Followed Her: A Collection of Writings on Miriam the Prophet and the Women of Exodus*. She currently serves as Director of The Peninsula Academy for Jewish Education.



**Third Friday Dinner  
Friday, January 17**

**J**oin new and seasoned members for a friendly pay-your-own-way dinner before services. We'll meet at 6:15 pm at Elephant Bleu, 3232 16th St, just down the street from Sha'ar Zahav. RSVP by January 13 to the office by phone or [office@shaarzahav.org](mailto:office@shaarzahav.org). Questions? Call Marianne Balin (510/338-3890).



## Music In The Mishkan Presents...



If you happen to be wondering what fabulous event demands your presence on Sunday evening, February 9 at 7 pm, here's your answer: A String Extravaganza, the opening concert of the 2003 Music in the Mishkan chamber music series. The Montclair Trio, a particular favorite of Music in the Mishkan audiences, will perform an exciting and varied program of music for violin, viola and cello. The Trio consists of violinist and CSZ member Randy Weiss, violist Patricia Whaley and cellist Cheryl Fippen, all principal or assistant principal players in Symphony San Jose - Silicon Valley, America's newest symphony orchestra.

As expected, Randy Weiss and his talented friends have put together a cornucopia of musical styles and emotional content, spanning three centuries and five countries. Two Jewish composers, Gideon Klein and Hans Krasa, are represented in the program. Both of them reached musical maturity in Czechoslovakia before WWII and both were interred in Terezin, a concentration camp with a flourishing cultural life that housed many famous European Jewish artists and musicians. Klein, though only in his early 20's when he arrived in Terezin, immediately began a concert series there.

Krasa contributed by writing a children's opera and was married to Gideon Klein's sister for a short time. Both composers were murdered at Auschwitz, but their musical legacies remain alive and vibrant.

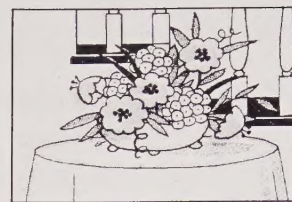
Besides the haunting works of Gideon Klein and Hans Krasa, the program will also include two light, short string trios by Ernst von Dohnanyi, a Hungarian romantic, and Jean Francaix, a French neo-classicist. The concert will conclude with a rollicking, ebullient Serenade by the ever popular Ludwig van Beethoven.

As usual, Randy promises that he and his colleagues will offer interesting and informative (and utterly entertaining) comments about the music from the stage. And remember to join the musicians for wine and schmoozing in the Oneg Room immediately after the concert.

For tickets, simply fill out the order form enclosed in this issue of the *Jewish Gaily Forward* or contact CSZ Interim Program Director Melanie Kushnir (ext. 305 or [mkushnir@shaarzahav.org](mailto:mkushnir@shaarzahav.org)).



*Mark your calendars and  
we'll see you on February 9!*



### Oneg and Flower Sponsorship

\*11/1 Flowers by Joanne and Bruce Kapsack in honor of the naming of Asher and Zoe Kapsack.

\*11/1 Oneg by Kelly Cytron.

\*11/8 Oneg by Susan Mizner in honor of the naming of Jonathan David Palash-Mizner.

\*11/15 Flowers by Avraham Giannini in memory of Tom Giannini.

\*11/15 Oneg by Joanne and Bruce Kapsack in honor of Asher, Zoe and Eli.

\*11/22 Flowers by Anna Katz in honor of Alice Katz's being two years cancer free.

\*11/22 Oneg by Steve Shane in honor of Steve Marshall's being welcomed into the covenant.

\*11/23 Oneg by Joanie Becker, Bernice Becker, Bobbie Becker, Ellen Press and Gabriel Press-Becker in honor of Julia Becker's Bat Mitzvah.

\*11/29 Oneg by Rebecca Goldfader in honor of her friends Bevan Dufty and Mark Leno.

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### January Anniversaries

- |    |                                     |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 14 | Amy Cunninghis and Karen Golinski   |
| 15 | Barbara Becker and Ellen Press      |
| 16 | Ida Kuluk and Susan Spott           |
| 17 | Nancy Igdaloff and Monica Levin     |
| 23 | Stephen Hauptman and Trudi Hauptman |
| 26 | David Steinberg and Gregory Foley   |



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Note that articles reflect the opinions of their author and not necessarily those of the congregation or its committees.

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January 2003, Volume 26,  
Issue #5



## Social Action Connection

### Join us!

By now, all members will have received a letter from Lisa Katz and Rabbi Angel with a social action brochure. Please pledge some time. Members and nonmembers alike can connect with our community through tikkun olam.

**Our volunteer support with homeless folks** at Most Holy Redeemer Parish is building up steam. Patrick Mulcahey, the main organizer, shared the following: "I feel such gratitude to CSZ as a congregation and such warm affection for the individuals from CSZ whose contributions mean so much to us. In fact that's a silly way even to put it, since there is no 'us' without Michael [Schaffer] and Jay [Davidson], whom I absolutely love, and A.J. [Turpen] and Craig [Persiko] and Geoff [Benjamin], who were among our very first friends. They are 'us.' Thank you for that."

I asked Jay Davidson what moves him to make a weekly commitment. "It feels like I'm doing something. Hunger and homelessness are such huge problems in San Francisco. I can't take it on myself, but at least I feel I'm part of a well-organized effort to do something about it." What makes this service opportunity so appealing? "One of the things that is remarkable about Patrick, is that so many people marginalize homeless people, and he makes such a point of having everyone sit and be served by us, because being served and respected doesn't happen in too many other parts of their lives. We all wear name tags and we can get to know people over time, because there is a consistent set of guests. Also, it feels great that there are so many resources available in one place." He went on to explain, "It's a really enjoyable time for everybody. The other volunteers are great. All the dinners are cooked right there, from scratch, the food is good and the volunteers get to eat as well." For more information, contact Jay (415/861-2444, teacher@jaydavidson.com) or Craig (craig@redcottage.com).

**Many thanks** to those who have already stepped forward, before the mailing of pledge forms, to contribute their time, including:

✓ Project Open Hand volunteer relief effort: Steve Mazer and Lisa Ochs for volunteering to do behind-the-scenes organizing, and the many others who came out on December 24 and 25.

✓ To the Adult Education Committee, and Ali Cannon, A.J. Turpen, Rabbi Angel, Nancy Rubin and Jeanna Eichenbaum for the marvelous panel on being transgender and Jewish – part of a planned series of dialogues on LGBT diversity and justice issues

✓ Others who have participated or pledged: Ina Fried, Richard Weiner, Sharyn Saslafsky, Florence and Steven Nacamulli, Beth Grossman, Jo Ellen Kaiser and Zoe, and many others!!

Our Social Action agenda includes service, justice, spirituality and education, with a current focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community issues. So far, the service aspect, through the weekly opportunity to support our homeless neighbors, has drawn the most participation.

We'd like to share stories, reflect and build up the other aspects of our agenda. Please come to our Social Action Discussion/Planning Session Monday, January 27, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, at the synagogue. All are welcome. For more information, contact Melanie Kushnir (ext. 305 or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org).



# January 2003 ❖ Tivet 5763 / Shevat 5763

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY DEADLINE MONDAY, JANUARY 3, AT 5 PM

## ARTICLES

Please submit your articles as a Word attachment file via email to: [kschiller@igc.org](mailto:kschiller@igc.org). No late submissions will be accepted.

## ADVERTISING

To place a display ad, contact Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or [froslyn@earthlink.net](mailto:froslyn@earthlink.net)). To place a classified ad, call the office.

1

NEW YEARS

OFFICE CL

5	2 Shevat	6	3 Shevat	7	4 Shevat	8
• 10 am Baby Chavurah • 4 pm Healing Service		• 7 pm Beit Midrash				• 4 pm Midweek
12	9 Shevat	13	10 Shevat	14	11 Shevat	15
		• 6:30 pm LRP • 7 pm JGF Layout		• 6:30 pm Prayerbook Hebrew I		• 4 pm Midweek
19	16 Shevat	20	17 Shevat	21	18 Shevat	22
• 11 am Tu Bishvat Family Program		MLK Jr. Day OFFICE CLOSED		• 6:30 pm ECE Membership Committee • 7 pm • 6:30 pm Prayerbook Hebrew II		• 4 pm Midweek
26	23 Shevat	27	24 Shevat	28	25 Shevat	29
• 10 am Baby Chavurah		• 6:30 pm CEB • 6:30 pm Social Action Committee		• 6:30 pm Prayerbook Hebrew II		• 4 pm Midweek



THURSDAY			FRIDAY			SHABBAT		
Tivet	2	28 Tivet	3	29 Tivet	4	Shabbat Va-Era Ex.6:2-9:35	1 Shevat	
D		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 pm Intro to Judaism</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4:45 pm Candle Lighting</li> <li>7:30 pm Shabbat Services</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 am Torah Study</li> <li>10 am Shabbat Services led by Ora Prochovnick and Alan Gordon</li> </ul>		
Shevat	9	6 Shevat	10	7 Shevat	11	Shabbat Bo Ex. 10:1-13:16	8 Shevat	
nah		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30 pm Va'ad Meeting</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4:52 pm Candle Lighting</li> <li>6:15 pm Family Dinner</li> <li>7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 am Torah Study</li> <li>9:30 am Kadimah</li> <li>10 am Shabbat Services</li> </ul>		
Shevat	16	13 Shevat	17	14 Shevat	18	Shabbat Be-Shallah Gen. 47:28-50:26	15 Shevat	
nah		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30 pm Israel Committee</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4:59 pm Candle Lighting</li> <li>6:15 pm Third Friday Dinner</li> <li>7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel</li> </ul>		<p><i>Alapai Kim Michels Bar Mitzvah</i> <i>No Kadimah</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 am Torah Study</li> <li>10 am Shabbat Services</li> <li>7 pm Tu Bishvat Sedar</li> </ul>		
Shevat	23	20 Shevat	24	21 Shevat	25	Shabbat Yitro Ex. 1:1-6:1	22 Shevat	
nah				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:06 pm Candle Lighting</li> <li>7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Sarita Groisser and Rachel Timoner</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 am Torah Study</li> <li>9:30 am Kadimah</li> <li>10 am Shabbat Services led by Anna Lichtenberg</li> <li>10:30 am Tot Shabbat</li> </ul>		
Shevat	30	27 Shevat	31	28 Shevat				
mah		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30 pm Ritual Committee Meeting</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:14 pm Candle Lighting</li> <li>7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Lyssa Friedman and Paul Cohen</li> </ul>				





## Family Kabbalat Shabbat Returns:

*Friday, January 10, 6:15 pm*

After a six-month hiatus, we are re-introducing the Family Kabbalat Shabbat program with a few new twists. In light of our new family friendly service time, the Kabbalat Shabbat program is no longer a stand-alone early alternative to services. Rather it is an opportunity for gathering with other families before Friday night services. Families will share Shabbat blessings, eat together, say grace after the meal and join one another for Shabbat singing prior to 7:30 services. Families are strongly encouraged to stay for services and be a part of the larger Friday night community.

There is also a logistical change motivated by changing staffing patterns and a tight budget. The eating component of the program will be potluck. The tradeoff is that there will

be no charge for the program and no advance RSVP or payment required. While we lose the luxury of a fully-prepared meal, we gain the luxury of not needing advanced planning. Please don't be intimidated by potluck; we are a simple people and will gladly accept prepared foods, take-out or other easy solutions. I will ask people to bring foods according to the alphabet in order to facilitate a balanced meal. For January: If your last name begins with A-G, please bring a main dish, H-N a side dish, salad or fruit; O-T drinks, U-Z dessert.

Now more than ever, families with children of all ages are encouraged to join us. This is also a wonderful opportunity to introduce friends and family to our community. Please invite non-members to join you and get a taste of the ruach (spirit) of our community. Shabbat Shalom!

## Baby Chavurah:

*Sundays, January 5 and 26, 10 am to noon*

Bring those under twos out to play, sing, and commune with like-minded babes and their parents. Join us for potluck brunch, playtime and socializing. This month we will be at the synagogue on January 5 and at the home of Josh and Anna Katz on January 26. Look for directions in the CSZ weekly email or contact the Education Office. Please bring your baby and a vegetarian dish. Older siblings are welcome, as are non-members. Baby Chavurah meets every three weeks.



## Family Tu B'Shvat Celebration:

*Sunday, January 19 11 am – 2 pm*

This is the season to plant! Bring the kids for an outdoor adventure honoring the earth in celebration of Tu B'Shvat. We'll be planting native species on Bernal Hill with folks from the SF Recreation and Parks Department—with a break for lunch and learning. Lunch is bring your own picnic. The event is rain or shine, barring a deluge. Young children will require close supervision on steep hills. Please RSVP by January 10th.

Contact Sue Bojdak, Director of Family and Children's Education

ext.302 or educator@shaarzahav.org for more information about any of these programs or to RSVP.

## Kadimah Teacher of the Month: Kendra Lubalin



Kendra Lubalin is a first-year Kadimah teacher, and a seven-year teaching veteran. Kendra has taught in preschools (Jewish and non) and religious schools around the Bay Area. Kendra is a self-described adult Jewish learner. One of her favorite things about teaching is learning. She is particularly excited about teaching here at Sha'ar Zahav, as it is her first opportunity in the Jewish community to explore the intersection of her Jewish and queer identities.

Kendra is teaching Kitah Bet, 2nd/3rd grade, on Shabbat mornings. She brings to her teaching a deep appreciation of the individual and a creative flair for introducing Jewish values to young children. Her students this year have already written a blessing for their parents and created a book on guarding your tongue to donate to our library. Kendra is a terrific addition to our staff. Kol Ha Kavod!

## Kadimah's

- second semester begins
- on January 8 (Midweek)
- and January 11 (Shabbat)
- There is NO KADIMAH
- on Saturday, January 18

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## She's Having a Baby

— a message from Sue Bojdak

I am delighted to announce that I'll be on maternity leave for the months of February and March, as my partner and I are anticipating the birth of our second child on or about February 1. During that time, Caryn Aviv will be the point person for Shabbat Kadimah and Phyllis Mintzer will be the contact for Midweek Kadimah. There will be an additional temporary administrative person to send out communications from the Education Office and meet other needs as they arise. If you have questions or concerns during that time, please contact the synagogue office to be connected to the appropriate person. We look forward to continuing to serve your needs during my absence.

## Tot Shabbat:

Saturday, January 25, 10:30 am to noon

Come celebrate Shabbat with your tot. Bring your 2-5 year olds for singing, prayer, storytelling, crafts and family Jewish fun with Sandra Menachem, Early Childhood Education Specialist. Younger siblings and non-members are welcome. Tot Shabbat meets the last Saturday of the month.

## Spring Camp Opportunities @ Camp Newman

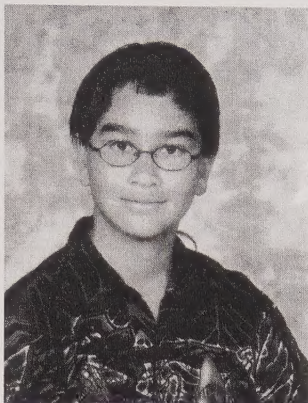
For a taste of camp during the school year, check out Camp Newman's Off-Season Events:

Hatikvah (grades 7 and 8) and 5th/6th Grade Retreat - March 21-23

Family Open House - April 12

For more information, call the camp office (415/392-7080 x10).

## Alapai Kim Michels Bar Mitzvah



On Shabbat morning January 18 (Parashat Beshalach), Alapai Kim Michels will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah. Alapai is in the 8th grade at Synergy School in San Francisco, where his favorite subjects are math and science. He also enjoys art, particularly origami, and

during Chanukkah taught a class at CSZ on how to make origami dreidels. In addition, he likes playing baseball and enjoys ice skating.

Alapai is the final member of his b'nai mitzvah class to be celebrating his bar mitzvah. In the process of preparing, he says, he has learned a lot about Judaism, prayers and how to read Torah trope. Through the experience of co-leading services, he feels that he has become more confident about being in front of people.

Alapai wishes to thank his tutor, Joe Hample (with whom he shares a lot of bad jokes), and his teachers Phyllis Mintzer and Jen Levinson. A heartfelt mazel tov to Alapai and his parents Alan Michels and Laureen Kim on this happy occasion!

## Where can you find great Passover candy and do a mitzvah at the same time? Right here!

No need to search the Bay Area for those special Passover treats that sustain you through the long bread-free week. The Children's Education Board (CEB) and the children of Kadimah are bringing Barton's Passover candies straight from NY to you! Whether it's the chocolate macaroons you must have or the milk chocolate matzah, we can meet the needs of your Passover sweet tooth with the added bonus of supporting Sha'ar Zahav's Family and Children's Education programs. Look for CEB representatives and Kadimah children before Friday night services during the whole month of January to place your orders, or complete the enclosed order form and send it with a check to the Education Office today.

## Can you recite Goodnight Moon in your sleep?

Maybe it's time to give it a new home! CSZ member Lisa Ochs has just started working as a nurse in three San Francisco elementary schools, where the kids and staff would be extremely grateful for your generous donations of the following items:

- \* Used or new children's books. Books in Spanish and Chinese are even more welcome.
- \* Used or new children's clothing, especially (new) underwear and socks
- \* Simple jigsaw puzzles (100 or so pieces), maze books and coloring books, stickers and pencils.

The greatest need is for books. Remember, time drags when you're lying in the nurse's office, waiting for someone to come take you home. Please look for the red bin in the hall near the Oneg room.



## Synagogue Information

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav  
290 Dolores Street  
415/861-6932(voice);415/861-6081 (fax)  
Programming office, 415/575-4961  
Education office, 415/575-4962

- office@shaarzahav.org (email)
- http://www.shaarzahav.org (web)

### CSZ Staff:

Rabbi,  
Camille Shira Angel (x 301)  
• rabbiangel@shaarzahav.org

Interim Administrator,  
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• jcarlson@shaarzahav.org

Interim Program Director,  
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Director of Children's and Family  
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Kadimah Head Teacher,  
Phyllis Mintzer

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Rabbi's Assistant,  
Gabby Volodarsky (x 310)  
• gabby@shaarzahav.org

### Officers:

President, Lisa Katz  
(415/821-7746),  
• llkatz1@juno.com or  
• president@shaarzahav.org  
Vice President, Arthur Slepian  
Vice President, Jeffrey Sherman  
Treasurer, Gail Ludwig  
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Marianne Balin  
Ron Edelman  
Leslie Kane  
Nancy Kates  
Laura Lowe  
Ron Miguel  
Drew Parker-Rose  
Karen Schiller  
Howard Steiermann

Members wishing to contact any  
Va'ad member or committee chair  
are invited to obtain her or his  
number from the synagogue office.

### Committee Chairs:

*Adult Education*, Ron Edelman and Joss Eldredge

*Baby Chavurah*, by committee

*Bequests and Donations*, Richard Inlander

*Bikkur Cholim*, open

*Book Group*, Mark Mackler

*Building and Grounds*, Beth Sousa

*Bylaws*, Richard Inlander

*Children's Education Board*, Ruthy Talansky

*Cemetery*, Richard Inlander

*Dor Rishon Brotherhood*, open

*Dues*, Tiela Chalmers, Laura Lowe, Ron Lezell

*East Bay Chavurah*, Ida Kuluk and Larry Wexler

*Endowment Fund*, David Stein

*Experiment in Congregational Education*,  
Dan Bellm

*Finance*, Gail Ludwig

*Fine Arts*, Barbara Cymrot

*Fundraising*, Arthur Slepian

*Gift Shop*, Jeff Rubin

*Israel Committee*, Michal Goralsky  
and Steve Mazer

*Kesher/Connection*, Marianne Balin and  
Geri Kahn

*Leadership Development*, Paul Cohen

*Library*, Bernard Schertzer

*Long-Range Planning*, Arthur Slepian and  
Claudia Bernard

*Membership Outreach*, Tony Harris

*Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign*,  
Deborah Udin

*Music*, Michael Sarid

*Newsletter*, Karen Schiller

- kschiller@igc.org

*Outreach*, Mark Gershman and Daphne Stuart

*Past Presidents' Council*, Diana Buchbinder

*Personnel*, Jeff Sherman

*Public Relations*, Sharyn Saslafsky and  
Marc Wernick

*Rabbi Liaison*, Ora Prochovnick

*Ritual*, Howard Steiermann

*Social Action*, AJ Turpen, Craig Persiko,  
Susan Lubeck

*UAHC National Liaison*, Mike Rankin

*UAHC Regional Liaison*, Daniel Chesir

*WGCLBJO Liaison*, David Gellman

*Web and I.T.*, Geoff Benjamin

## November Va'ad Minutes

Ron Edelman delivered the d'var Torah on Parashat VaYetze. He described Jacob's sojourns and the naming of the location where Jacob dreamed as a holy place. He concluded that a place becomes holy through God's design and by our intentions and aspirations. He drew an analogy between CSZ's founders and Jacob, who traveled for safety.

Marianne Balin delivered the Membership Committee report. We welcomed two new members. It is a new practice to ask people why they did not renew; the committee will apprise the Va'ad of any themes.

Interim Administrator James Carlson and Interim Program Director Melanie Kushnir reported on the Congregational Seder for 2003. It is a significant draw for new members and is appreciated by continuing members. Because the Officers' Club at Fort Mason is closed, we need a new site. After discussing the options of holding a catered event at CSZ or at another synagogue, we voted to seek a hotel with public transit, parking and wheelchair access for a second night seder. This will mean that our costs will increase and the price for attending the seder will increase. We need to seek "Passover Angels" to provide subsidies.

President Lisa Katz delivered her report. People were pleased that Lisa emailed members with the topics of this meeting. She shared responses that she received.

Lisa introduced the topic of diminishing volunteerism. Melanie commented that more professional time means less meeting time for us, and people can show up for ready-made programs. But the downside is increased costs from having staff at events where volunteers used to serve, and decreased opportunities to connect with people while giving back to the congregation.

We voted unanimously to order 300 25th Anniversary challah covers as a thank-you gift for "Fund for the Future" donors and also for sale. Our appreciation to Jeff Forman and Jeff Rubin for arranging this.

— continued on page 13

**Bikkur Cholim:** If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav are ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jewish Organizations.





## From the JEWISH TOOL KIT

Interesting and useful little tidbits about Shabbat and holidays, Hebrew language, liturgy, Jewish history and other areas of Jewish life. This month...

### Havdalah: The Spiritual Finale to Shabbat

The Jewish Tool Kit is a big fan of home rituals that strengthen our connection to Judaism and to one another – especially ones that are simple and easily accessible (as opposed to the big Broadway production kind, like a Pesach seder). Shabbat involves many such rituals, and some of us are already familiar with those used to welcome Shabbat (like candles and Kiddush). The end of Shabbat is also observed through a ritual – the beautiful ceremony called Havdalah. It means "separation," and the ceremony is used "officially" to mark the separation between the holiness of Shabbat and the secular nature of the other days. It is traditionally recited on Saturday night "when three stars are visible in the night sky."

We need a few props for Havdalah: a full glass of wine, a multi-wicked candle (lit before we begin) and any type of fragrant spice. The full text of the short ceremony can be found in most siddurim (prayerbooks) and in other books containing songs and blessings. The CSZ office also has handouts. Here's an overview of what we do and what it means:

Havdalah begins with a few **Introductory Verses** from Isaiah and Psalms. This section does not lend itself to singing, and it's OK to skip it. The next three blessings can all be sung to a beautiful tune that you can learn from many willing singers at CSZ.

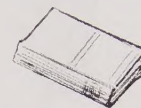
As in all Jewish sanctification rituals, we begin with the traditional Blessing over Wine, by raising a full glass of wine and reciting the Bo-rei P'ri Ha Gafen blessing (but don't drink the wine yet). Second is a Blessing over Spices (Bo-rei Mi-nei B'samim). As we are saddened over the end of Shabbat, the smell of fragrant spices helps to lift our spirits. Also, tradition says that we acquire an "additional soul" on Shabbat that departs from us when Shabbat ends; the spices help to refresh us and compensate for that loss. We recite the blessing and then smell the spices. Third, we say a Blessing over the Light of a Flame (Bo-rei Me'Orei Ha-Eish) using a multi-wick candle. On Shabbat we refrain from "creating" things in the physical world; when Shabbat is over, our first act of creation is reminiscent of God's first act of creation: "Let there be light." We recite the blessing and then look at our hand by the light of the flame; in this way we are using the flame and so have not said a blessing in vain.

We conclude with a Havdalah Blessing, blessing God as the One who makes a distinction between the holy and the secular. We drink the wine and also use it to extinguish the candle. There are several traditional songs we sing after Havdalah, including Shavua Tov (A Good Week) and Eliyahu HaNavi (Elijah the Prophet) or Miriam HaNeviah. Some people have the tradition of lighting a new candle from the flame of the Havdalah candle; in this way the light of Shabbat is carried into the new week.

Havdalah is a multimedia extravaganza (albeit a simple one to pull off) with wide appeal: it involves all the senses; it's simultaneously down to earth and spiritual, it can be mumbled or sung; it can be done alone or in a group. It's a terrific way to incorporate Jewish practice into your life.

*Comments about the Jewish Tool Kit or requests for topics to be covered can be sent to [PirkeiAvot@attglobal.net](mailto:PirkeiAvot@attglobal.net).*

### Rabbi Angel's Recommended Reading



Yosef Abramowitz and Susan Silverman,  
**Jewish Family & Life: Traditions,  
Holidays and Values for Today's  
Parents and Children.**  
Golden Books.

Frances Klagsbrun,  
**The Fourth Commandment:  
Remember the Sabbath Day.**  
Harmony Books.

Chaim Stern (editor),  
**On the Doorposts of Your House: Prayers  
and Ceremonies for the Jewish Home.**  
Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Michael Strassfeld,  
**A Book of Life: Embracing Judaism  
as a Spiritual Practice.**  
Schocken Books.



### Members' Yahrzeits

9	Jerry Davis
10	Cheryl Orvis
18	Keith Fenton
20	George Ash
27	Allen Harris



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## Why is This New Member Different From All Others?

Miranda Petrillo

By Prudence Carter

Meeting a new member to interview for this column always causes me high anxiety - so little time, so many questions. How do I fit all of this in a short column? The new member profiled this month made it easy. Miranda Petrillo recommended we meet for dinner at Bitterroot to chat, eat and enjoy a glass of wine.

**Jewish Gaily Forward (JGF):** *Miranda, tell us about yourself.*

I was born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, a lovely town just outside of Philadelphia. My dad met my mom when she was a senior in high school and he was the cute new teacher. My maternal grandparents were not too thrilled that their beautiful Jewish daughter was going to marry a Roman Catholic guy, as they had raised my mom somewhat Orthodox; she went to a camp where the girls and boys held hands with a handkerchief in between them during folk dancing. As you can guess, I came from a family where rules were broken.

**JGF: Coming from a mixed family how were you raised?**

As a child we had the best of both worlds; we had a Christmas tree and celebrated the Jewish holidays. But when I was being prepared to have my First Communion, that changed a little. My Sunday school teacher called

my mom a "communist" when she refused to go to church. My mom responded by yanking me out of catechism and sending me to Hebrew school. I loved learning from the rabbi's Israeli wife. I felt special, somehow, to be a part of such an ancient language, culture and religion.

**JGF: Did the Jewish values you learned shape who you are today?**

Yes, they did, in several ways. From my mother, I learned to be proud of my Jewish identity and to stick up for myself went outside of the traditional boundaries. She also taught me a sense of duty - that my responsibility extended outside of myself - to my town, my country, the world. When I taught high school, that was a value I tried to instill in my students. As I matured, prayer guided me and gave me strength through difficult times.

**JGF: What brought you to CSZ and any advice for new members?**

I joined CSZ because it was not a mainstream temple. As a child of a "communist" [laughingly], rebellion is in my blood. At CSZ,

nobody is constantly telling you how to be Jewish. You are encouraged to develop your own way of being Jewish. It's democratic and not hierarchical. Rabbi Angel serves to draw out the best in each person and the community serves to encourage one another. Plus, when you join CSZ, you can make a positive impact on others' lives. When my mother was ill with lymphoma and the entire community prayed for her during the MiShebeirach, this made a positive impact on my life for which I will always be grateful.

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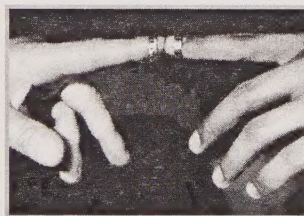
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VA'AD — continued from page 10

Melanie introduced a report on the Scholar-in-Residence. Rabbi Benay Lappe will be at CSZ on February 21-23. This weekend would be part of our 25th Anniversary celebration. Last month, we approved the concept and a budget of up to \$4500 (with \$2000 coming from the Adult Ed budget and the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, and additional money from the Public Relations budget). A generous anonymous member has offered us a matching grant of \$500 for the weekend. We gave final approval to the Scholar-in-Residence plan, acknowledging a funding shortfall and recognizing that some form of fundraising will be necessary.

The question was raised as to whether we could invite people to a 'VIP' event with Rabbi Lappe to help fund the weekend. This would mean changes in our fundraising minhag. We need to have a discussion about whether it is better to charge people to attend events during the weekend (services to remain free, of course) which could be difficult for some people, or have a two-three hour wine and cheese party for people who donate \$100 to the event. It would be a new thing to charge people for an extra event in order to make other educational events free. This will be discussed at the December Va'ad meeting.

A proposed policy on hiring members was introduced and approved.

Rabbi Angel reported that she has a full calendar of counseling for life-cycle events and seasonal pastoral needs. The usual wait of three to four weeks for an appointment is now even longer, and the rabbi states that we need more clergy soon. Rabbi Angel has been visiting Saturday morning Kadimah classes, and has been missed at Saturday morning services. She is also teaching a Saturday morning class on text study, hopefully to interest parents who are here but not interested in prayer. Although she is pulled in many directions, Rabbi Angel concluded that she still loves being the rabbi here.

James Carlson reported that Megan Saperstein has resigned from our staff. Jaan Carter is her replacement; she is learning the ropes.



## Donations

### Children's Education Fund

Harold Podgur  
-in memory of Ruth Levine.

Karen Schiller  
-in honor of Joe Hample.

### General Fund

George and Phyllis Mintzer  
-in memory of Tatia and Zora French.

Jeffrey Sherman  
-in memory of Ida Rosenthal  
and Jay Shlachter.

Susan Tubbesing  
-in memory of Fay Mutchnick.

Robert and Sharon Kliegman  
-in honor of Rachel Kliegman.

Ross Zachs.

Michael Sarid  
-in memory of Senator Paul  
Wellstone.

Pieter de Haan and Ruth Rainero  
-in honor of Ilana Rainero-de  
Haan's becoming bat mitzvah.

Ron Lezell  
-in honor of Manny Fishman's  
birthday.

Charles Bello.

Steven Horowitz.

Allan Berenstein  
-in honor of Julia Becker,  
A.J. Turpen and Ina Fried.

Jean Bass MacLachlan  
-in memory of Rhoda  
MacLachlan.

Joanne and Bruce Kapsack.

Judith Holiber and Kim Warsaw  
-in memory of Solomon  
Novogrodsky and in wishing a  
speedy recovery for Stephanie Godt.

Lisa Katz  
-in honor of Ilana Rainero-de  
Haan's becoming bat mitzvah.

### High Holiday Donation

Marga Dusedau.

### Inclusive Liturgy Fund

Batya Kalis  
-in memory of Dorothy Hodes,  
Phillip Kalis, Sherman Kalis and  
Bernice Michelson.

### Mishkan Dolores

Allan Berenstein  
-in honor of Ron Lezell's 50th  
birthday.

### Music Fund

Alan Michels and Laureen Kim  
-in honor of Ilana Rainero-de  
Haan's becoming bat mitzvah.

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Allan Berenstein  
-in memory of Forrest Kincade,  
Don Albert, Chuck Norton and  
Ellen Albin.

### Scholar in Residence Fund

Ray Bernstein.

James Carlson.

Ron Edelman.

Lisa Katz.

Laura Lowe.

Jeffrey Sherman.

## Condolences

**Ellen Novogrodsky**, on the death of her grandfather, Solomon Novogrodsky.

**Ezra Cattan**, on the death of his great-uncle, Leon Kaster.

**Simon Glinsky**, on the death of his friend, Bernard Blumberg.

**Tony Enriquez**, on the death of his friend, Ramon Lozon.

**Alan Gold**, on the death of his father, Benjamin Gold.

**Eric Johansson**, on the death of his grandmother, Avis Callman.



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Frieda Dunn Baldonado
3	Kimberly Warsaw
5	Desmond Bernstein
5	Jonathan Bell
6	Nathan Robinson
6	Ronni Hayon
7	Paul Whitmore
7	Leah Finch
9	Marius Greenspan
9	Amalia Cymrot-Wu
10	Bernard Schertzer
11	Dvora Honigstein
12	Tiela Chalmers
12	Florence Nacamulli
12	Adin Eichler
13	Alapai Michels
14	Michael Schwartz
14	Sophie Hogan-Cytron
14	Louisa Stone
15	Jacqueline Mauro
15	Howard Rubin
16	Deena Lahn
17	Gabriel Meyer Edlin
18	Sarah Adler
19	Mike Rankin
19	Ellen Lewin
20	Ruby Cymrot-Wu
20	Eileen Lynette
21	Jim Acerra
22	Laureen Ok Sun Kim
22	Nathan Kling
22	Marvin Bernstein
24	Jonathan Williamson
24	Malik Bernstein
24	Kevin Johnson
25	Neil Hart
27	Elliot Klein
27	Mike Klayman
27	Howard Hahn
29	Jacob Montgomery
30	Ruth Schoenbach
31	Nora Downs

## New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

**Ila Cherney**  
**Juliet Neidish, Mark Franko and**  
**Alessio Franko**

We are gratified to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

## Naches

- To **Nancy Kates** on having her documentary film about Bayard Rustin accepted by the Sundance Film Festival. The film is titled, "Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin" and will air on PBS on January 20.
- To **Terry Fletcher** and **Glen Hauer** on their 10th anniversary that occurred in November.
- To **Steve Marshall** on his welcoming into the covenant.
- To **Julia Becker** on her becoming a bat mitzvah.
- To **Ruthy Talansky** and **Maureen Bennett** on the birth of their daughter, Gideon Quinn Talansky Bennett.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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